

Short Summary of SUP
Soldier Summit Project

About 1975: Dr. R. Raymond Green started gathering information on all cemeteries in Wasatch County.

About 1980: Dr. R. Raymond Green found information p.221 in "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains" book on cemeteries. This regenerated his interest, so more research started.

By Aug 1984: A list of 10 cemeteries had been found, documented, and pictures taken of them.

10 Oct 1984: Dr. R. Raymond Green drove to Soldier Summit and made acquaintance with Thomas Brackenbury at his Conoco Station there. He showed me where the graves and grave stone were.

14 Oct 1984: Phil Wright, Clyde Broadbent and Dr. R. Raymond Green drove to Soldier Summit on a county inspection tour for sewer disposal. We talked again to Mr. Brackenbury. Tom said his wife had some history on the town. Dr. Green took many pictures.

Jan. 1985: Dr. Green suggested we, in the Mountain Valley Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers, take on the project of putting a fence around the Soldiers Graves in Soldier Summit in 1985. These 7 soldiers died and were buried there in 1861. It is now nearly 124 yrs. ago..

20 Feb 1985: The SUP had their 1985 organizational meeting.

April 1985: Mountain Valley Chapter of the SUP Directors approved the Soldier Summit Soldiers graves memorialization.

2 May 1985: Dr. Green tried to get legal description from County recorder Joe Dean Huber of the Soldiers graves, it was not on record.

15 May 1985: Dr. Green called Pat Brackenbury at her home early before she went to work at First Interstate Bank at 310 West Center, Provo, Utah. She said she would bring her history papers to Soldier Summit on Saturday 18 May.

Sat. 18 May 1985: Dr. R. R. Green and Dr. Rex A. Whiting drove to Soldier Summit to interview Tom and Pat Brackenbury at their Conoco Service Station.

Keith Carter and his wife talked to us about the location of about 3 or 4 Japanese graves to the southwest near the old dairy. This is just over the Wasatch-Utah County line.

Sat 18 May 1985: "Pappy" (Keith E.) Walters of the Soldier Summit Motel showed us the Soldier Grave Stone in his coal room on the west end of his Motel. Ray and Rex took pictures of it. When Tom Brackenbury asked what happened to the town records in motel room #11. "Pappy" said he threw them on the dump east of his motel just 2 weeks ago.

Rex and Ray and Pat "went bananas!" They rushed over to the dump and retrieved five cardboard boxes of papers, records, books, etc., and loaded them in Dr. Green's blue 1984 Plymouth Reliant.

Tom Brackenbury took Rex Whiting and Ray Green down to the Soldier Gravesite which measured about 30' X 10". The old posts and boards were just laying around. Only one grave mound was discernable. Rex and Ray then fixed the gravesite on the Wasatch County and Soldier Summit map given to them by Wasatch County Recorder, Joe Dean Huber.

Before Rex and Ray left Soldier Summit, Pat Brackenbury gave them a copy of the "History of Soldier Summit 1776 to 1972", by Vern Jefferies, Jefferson, or Jeffers. She said he still lives in Payson, Spanish Fork or Springville.

Ray and Rex drove home jubilant over the whole escapade of the day.

Dr. Green's reaction when he first read the "History of Soldier Summit 1776 to 1972" on 18 May 1985:

"When I first read the short story of Soldier Summit, I was impressed that this author had done his home work before he had written this story."

LuAnn S Davis

20 May 1985: Dr. Green's Secretary looked at the History of Soldier Summit and determined that the author was Verne Jeffers. She found his address in the Springville telephone directory at 39 "C" Street and his telephone was 1-489-6269. Dr. Green called this number and sure enough, he is the same Verne Jeffers who wrote the said history. Dr. Green asked for permission to come and visit him. He agreed.

20 May 1985: Dr. Green took the Soldier Summit Map to Wasatch County Recorder, Joe Dean Huber and he was glad to receive the exact location of the Soldier's Graves in Wasatch County. He recorded it on his maps.

24 May 1985: Dr. Green found that chain was too expensive to place around the grave site. Daryl Shumway also suggested that chain would likely be stolen by interested thieves. He said: "Why don't we use steel cable? I'll try and find some."

31 May 1985: It was now evident, we would have to have permission from the landowners, to put a fence around those graves. The county records indicated that this ground belongs to John Aagard - a sheep rancher whose home is in Fountain Green, Utah.

So, Dr. Green called Mrs. John Aagard. She said, call son Roger. Roger said this ground was sold to a Chinese Corporation and said to call, Clark A. Lin at 1-272-5239, in Salt Lake City, Utah. His office is located at 4568 Highland Drive #260. He represents American Cities Corporation.

31 May 1985: Dr. Green also called Clark A. Lin to talk about permission to go onto their ground to fence the Soldiers Graves. He encouraged us, but said Mr. Henry Lin would be the signator, and owner.

9 June 1985: Dr. Green called Verne Jeffers, and he gave permission to visit him today.

9 June 1985: Sunday R. Raymond Green, M.D. took Rex A. Whiting, DDS. to visit Verne Jeffers in Springville. They spent from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm with him. He is an 84 year old walking encyclopedia of historical dates and facts of Western Americana in the Springville area and further south and into Nevada. He told us of a third cemetery in Soldier Summit, just down south of the railroad track.

He showed us volume after volume of compilations of pictures, histories and stories of areas from Springville, south to Arizona and into Nevada and much railroading history too.

We were very impressed that:

1. He is very alert at 84 yrs and has a keen factual and date memory of many places and events with reference to the areas including Springville, Spanish Fork Canyon and etc.
2. We must come and visit him often.
3. We must find a way to obtain many pictures from him.
4. He is willing to share his coveted material.
5. Springville is publishing a history.

9 June 1985:
Contd.

6. He has been visited by National Geographic Magazine men.
7. He has been visited by Smithsonian Institute representatives.
8. He is careful in his documentation with labeled and dated pictures and makes no written record unless it is verified by 3 different sources.
9. In our conversation he revealed that there was another grave site down across the tracks to the south and up on a little knoll. Only 3 or 4 people are buried there. This now makes 3 (three) grave sites in Soldier Summit:
 - a. Seven Soldiers buried by a spring.
 - b. Several Japanese people buried near where the old _____ Dairy used to be.
 - c. Several other people buried on a knoll south of the town.

All of these sites are south of the main line railroads, in Soldier Summit.

10 June 1985: Dr. Green visited attorney J. Harold Call and asked for a written legal document granting the National Sons of Utah Pioneers to place a fence around Soldiers Graves at Soldier Summit.

13 June 1985: The Mountain Valley Chapter of the SUP Directors met at Dr. Green's office and made final plans to place a fence around the Soldier's Graves on Saturday 22 June 1985.

Only a few more preparations remain:

1. We must have permission from the American Cities (Chinese) Corporation.
2. We must have 4 more pipe.
3. Assemble our tools.
4. Load acetyline and O₂ tanks on Arlene M. Nyman trailer.
5. Buy 12 bags cement.
6. Buy cable clamps.

13 June 1985: By now, we have now documented 12 cemeteries in Wasatch County.

14 June 1985: Dr. Green obtained the legal document allowing the Sons of Utah Pioneers to place a fence around the Soldier Graves.

At 5:00 PM Dr. Green carried this document to Mr. Clark A. Lin at 4568 So. Highland Drive in Salt Lake City, Utah. He will give it to Mr. Henry Yen to sign on Monday 17 June 1985.



*3rd Draft
6-18-85*